

RealClear Opinion Research/EWTN News
Survey of Catholic U.S. Voters
August, 2024

Catholic Identity and Practice

Among those who consider themselves Catholic, 43% attend Mass at least once a week, 16% attend once or twice a month, 32% attend a few times a year, and 9% attend once a year.

Catholics under 40 attend mass more frequently than older Catholics with 17% of 18-29 year olds and 22% of 30-39 year olds attending daily or more than once a week, compared to 6% of 40-49 year olds, 7% of 50-59 year olds, 9% of 60-69 year olds, and 13% of those 70 years or older.

52% believe in the Real Presence of the Eucharist, while 32% do not. Belief that the transformed bread and wine are the Body and Blood of Christ and not symbols increases with age, from 44% of Catholic voters under 30 to 63% of Catholic voters over 70.

Sixteen percent of those who consider themselves Catholic go to confession at least once a month, 23% go several times a year, 19% go once a year, and 24% go less than once a year. Eighteen percent never go to confession.

Thirty-nine percent of Catholic voters report that they generally accept most of the Church's teachings and try to live their lives accordingly, compared to 28% who say they accept all of the teachings, 20% who consider themselves Catholic but do not accept some key teachings, and 14% who say Catholicism has only a minor influence on their lives.

US Politics

President Joe Biden holds a 41% job approval rating among Catholic voters, while 49% disapprove of the job he is doing, and 10% are neutral.

Fifty percent of Catholic voters plan to support Kamala Harris for President, while 43% support Donald Trump, and 6% are undecided. When undecided voters are asked which candidate they lean toward, Harris' overall support increases to 54%, and Trump to 45%.

Female Catholic voters support Harris over Trump 56% to 37%, while male Catholic voters break for Trump 49% to 43%.

On the generic congressional ballot, 49% support the Democratic candidate while 41% support the Republican candidate.

US Issues

The economy is the top issue for Catholic voters nationwide at 51%, followed by border security and immigration at 13%, abortion at 10%, healthcare, crime, and climate change at 5% respectively, and K-12 education (3%). The economy, including jobs, inflation, and interest rates, is the top issue for Catholic voters across all age ranges.

A plurality of voters (38%) think neither the state legislature nor the federal government should be responsible for setting abortion policy, while 34% think state legislatures should be responsible, and 29% think the federal government should be responsible.

- Forty-five percent of female Catholic voters think neither should be responsible for setting abortion policy, while a plurality of male Catholic voters (40%) think it should be set by the state legislature.

Half (50%) of Catholic voters do not support either puberty blockers/cross-sex hormone treatment or surgical procedures for minors, while 14% support both procedures, 7% support surgical procedures, and 7% support puberty blockers.

A majority of voters (67%) think athletes who were born male but now identify as girls or women should not be able to compete in women's sports and athletics, while 18% think they should be able to; 15% are unsure.

Fifty-six percent of Catholic voters favor the death penalty for a person convicted of murder, while 23% oppose it, and 21% are unsure.

Foreign Policy

Regarding the way Israel is carrying out its response to Hamas' October 7 attack, 41% consider it somewhat or completely acceptable, while 39% consider it somewhat or completely unacceptable. Twenty percent are not sure.

Regarding Russia's invasion of Ukraine, 37% of Catholic voters think the US is providing too much support to Ukraine, 36% think it is giving about the right amount of support to Ukraine, and 28% think the U.S. is not providing enough support to Ukraine.

Forty-eight percent of Catholics believe China poses a significant or severe threat to the United States; 19% of Catholic voters think China poses a severe threat, while 29% think China is a significant threat, 32% a moderate threat, and 14% a slight threat. Six percent think China poses no threat to the U.S.

Hispanic Catholics

A majority of Hispanic Catholics (57%) listed the economy as their top issue, compared to 47% of white Catholics. Eleven percent of Hispanic respondents listed border security/immigration as their top issue, compared to 16% of white Catholics.

Generally, Hispanics register/affiliate more Democrat (58%) than Republican (27%). When presented with a congressional ballot test, 62% of Hispanics support the Democratic candidate, while 29% support the Republican candidate, reflective of registration.

A majority of Hispanics (59%) plan to support Kamala Harris in the 2024 presidential election, while 30% plan to support Donald Trump.

Methodology

The survey of n=1,000 Catholic voters was conducted August 28-30, 2024. The poll has a credibility interval, similar to a poll's margin of error (MOE), of +/- 3 percentage points.